

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
Foam Free Subcommittee Minutes: 8-29-12

Present: Brenda K. Davies, Susan Waite, Sue Morrello, Martha Hanner, Colleen Kelly

2. ~Agenda

- by-law draft discussion
- review timeline
- publicity update and plan
- restaurant visit update
- discuss city banns
- review visit with Guilford Mooring and John Musante

3. By-law update

Cynthia reviewed Peter Vickery's '09 by-law report and thought it could be simplified. Jonathan Tucker in planning dept. is expert on by-laws. Susan W. and Cynthia met with Jonathan and he stated it looked complete. He suggested that we review last few by-laws passed by Town Meeting for basis of comparison. Does existing version meet our goals? Susan to ask if Peter V. will review again. Town council needs to review it. Guilford Mooring and Susan W. will meet with John Musante to update on foam free plan. Martha to incorporate existing comments before Susan W. meets with Guilford and John. Important to add to by-law about 6 month grace period for restaurants to implement foam free and include preamble of why to eliminate foam.

~keep the hardship clause? Need to be specific and not renewable.

~talk to communities who have passed this ban to be prepared for the opposition: Discussed two approaches: 1) visit foam users first to manage issues upfront or 2) after finish small restaurant visits, then visit 3 big users: Bertucci's, Dunkin Donuts and Cumberland Farms.

~ do these chain stores exist in towns with foam bans?

~there is a town in Connecticut that is using paper at Dunkin Doughnuts--have they banned foam?

4. Publicity update

~Susan W. & Northampton Solid Waste Supervisor Karen Bouquillon were interviewed in August about zero waste and foam on "Conversations with Ben Ezra", an ACTV program.

~Martha suggested adding a link on town web-site to Susan's interview

~Sue M. to contact Larry Parnass from the Gazette environmental section to submit a foam free article. Best timeframe for posting is early October. Need to have approached restaurants prior. Early November to post advertisement in paper on applauding foam free restaurants, Susan W. to contact Amherst Bulletin about an advertisement.

5. Restaurant visit update & strategy

- ~reviewed sample product kits from Richard D. Smith company, to have sticker with sales representative contact info, letter from sales person
- ~ to add red line to indicate "bad" on foam samples in the bags.
- ~ kit does not have enough recyclable options. Susan to ask for additional samples.
- ~ Smith company to provide 40 sample bags (one for each restaurant).

6. Restaurant visit strategy

~Susan shared from visits to stores and restaurant experience that best time to visit is 10-11am if serve breakfast, before 11am if serve lunch and then 2-5pm if open for dinner, to meet with owner visit between 9-11am, these are relaxed time,

~Susan shared how to present self and material during visit with restaurants-- introduce self, title, purpose, request to meet with owner or manager for 5-10 minutes, state know you they are busy, how can connect with this person if unavailable, state this is important matter for your restaurant, can drop letter several days prior to meeting with manager, bring second copy to actual meeting, during meeting: get name, develop rapport, explain our goal and Commonwealth issue regarding filling land-fills and health, explain sponsors and collaborators, respond to 'what does this mean to me as a restaurant owner?', talk about co-op buying program, show samples, leave one page form with your personal contact information on top, review interview notes (want to identify key restaurant suppliers for Amherst),

~ask for commitment to go foam free by October 29 to be listed in ad in paper, present it as educational, a challenge and reiterate that this is consumer driven, all Seattle restaurants now need to use compostable products and to compost, show samples from Greenfield or to get from their supplier.

~if hostile or no time, ask when can I return?, leave them with the 2 sided letter and reiterate our goal is to ease the transition for you

7. Review follow up tasks: Sue M. met with Alex Krough-Grabbe. Alex stated businesses will only agree to co-op if same or minimum increase in costs. Secondly, leave minimal papers for restaurant owners to review as to not overwhelm.

Susan W. states we are on the Board of Health September agenda and Susan will speak at the meeting. We have sufficient documentation to support styrene as a health concern. Our intern, Gabe, has located a toxicology report listing styrene as a known human carcinogen.

Sue and Brenda to edit list of ten reasons to avoid foam products and basic info. about the project and provide to Susan W. by 8-31.

8. Review project timeline

- ~Need to update non-foam restaurant users by Oct. 15th
- ~Restaurant visits to be completed by September 30th
- ~Sue M. to send email for sign ups for remaining restaurants
- ~Martha to send updated by-law for warrant by 9-1 and ask for comments.

- ~Town of Portland ban since '80's based on ozone issues, part ozone issue resolved and part is still an issue
- ~complaint driven so our committee can put in the complaint that styrofoam is being used
- ~By-law states dep. of health will do inspections
- ~ Look at how other communities enforce this ban, ie: Portland is complaint driven

9. Next meeting to be Doodled for week of 9/10.